

23 franchise supply chain, that may or may not mandate store-distributor relationships
24 in a supply chain, comprising:

- 25 a) a supply chain manager receiving an authorization to negotiate prices for the
26 provision of products by distributors to independent stores in the franchise
27 supply chain;
- 28 b) the supply chain manager negotiating with a distributor a mark up amount to
29 be added to a cost of products obtained from a supplier;
- 30 c) the independent supply chain management system collecting sales data from
31 a product promotion from a plurality of independent stores of a supply chain
32 utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the independent
33 stores;
- 34 d) allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;
- 35 e) electronically tracking the sales data against forecasted sales;
- 36 f) generating a first alert if a deviation of the sales data relative to the
37 forecasted sales exceeds a threshold;
- 38 g) the independent supply chain management system generating and then
39 sending out directly or indirectly via at least one of the independent stores
40 to a distributor an electronic order form to be fulfilled to the at least one of
41 the independent stores based on the sales data relating to multiple
42 completed sales of goods by a the at least one independent store of the
43 supply chain, the electronic order form requesting a confirmation of the
44 receipt of the electronic order form to be sent upon receipt of and prior to
45 fulfillment of the order;
- 46 h) determining whether the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order
47 form is received by the independent supply chain management system from
48 the distributor;
- 49 i) the independent supply chain management system generating a second
50 alert upon determining that the independent supply chain management
51 system did not receive the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order
52 form from the distributor;
- 53 j) the independent supply chain management system determining a mark up
54 added to the products delivered to on of the independent stores; and

- 55 k) the independent supply chain management system comparing the mark up
56 added to the mark up negotiated by the supply chain manager; and
57 l) generating a third alert if a discrepancy is found.
58
- 59 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the confirmation is received
60 utilizing the network.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the alerts are is
2 transmitted to the stores utilizing the network.
- 1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein one of the alerts is
2 displayed on the network-based interface.
- 1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein one of the alerts
2 includes an electronic mail message.
3
- 4 7. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~order confirmation in an independent~~
5 supply chain management system generating alerts for the purpose of managing a
6 franchise supply chain, that may or may not mandate store-distributor relationships
7 in a supply chain, comprising:
8 an electronic storage; and
9 a set of processors that use the electronic storage and include among them
10 the following logic elements
- 11 a) logic for a supply chain manager receiving an authorization to negotiate
12 prices for the provision of products by distributors to independent stores in the
13 franchise supply chain;
14 b) logic for the supply chain manager negotiating with a distributor a mark up
15 amount to be added to a cost of products obtained from a supplier;

- 16 c) logic for the independent supply chain management system collecting sales
17 data from a product promotion from a plurality of independent stores of a supply
18 chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the independent
19 stores;
- 20 d) logic for allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;
- 21 e) logic for electronically tracking the sales data against forecasted sales;
- 22 f) logic for generating a first alert if a deviation of the sales data relative to the
23 forecasted sales exceeds a threshold;
- 24 g) logic for the independent supply chain management system generating and
25 then sending out directly or indirectly via at least one of the independent stores to
26 a distributor an electronic order form to be fulfilled to at least the one of the
27 independent stores based on the sales data relating to multiple completed sales of
28 goods by ~~a~~ the at least one independent store of the supply chain, the electronic
29 order form requesting a confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form to
30 be sent upon receipt of and prior to fulfillment of the order;
- 31 h) logic for determining whether the confirmation of the receipt of the
32 electronic order form is received by the independent supply chain management
33 system from the distributor;
- 34 i) logic for the independent supply chain management system generating ~~an~~ a
35 second alert upon determining that the independent supply chain management
36 system did not receive the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form
37 from the distributor;
- 38 j) logic for the independent supply chain management system determining a
39 mark up added to the products delivered to one of the independent stores;
- 40 k) logic for the independent supply chain management system comparing the
41 mark up added to the mark up negotiated by the supply chain manager; and
- 42 l) logic for generating a third alert if a discrepancy is found.

43
44 8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the confirmation is received
45 utilizing the network.

1 9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the network includes the Internet.

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1 10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the alerts are is
2 transmitted to the stores utilizing the network.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein one of the alerts is
2 displayed on the network-based interface.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein one of the alerts
includes an electronic mail message.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program for ~~order confirmation in an~~
independent supply chain management system generating alerts for the purpose of
managing a franchise supply chain, that may or may not mandate store distributor
relationships in a supply chain, comprising:
a set of computer usable media having computer readable program code embodied
therein to be executed by a computer, the computer readable program code
comprising:

a) computer code for a supply chain manager receiving an authorization to
negotiate prices for the provision of products by distributors to independent stores
in the franchise supply chain;

b) computer code for the supply chain manager negotiating with a distributor a
mark up amount to be added to a cost of products obtained from a supplier;

c) computer code for the independent supply chain management system
collecting sales data from a product promotion from a plurality of independent
stores of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of goods
by the independent stores;

d) computer code for allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based
interface;

e) computer code for electronically tracking the sales data against forecasted
sales;

f) computer code for generating a first alert if a deviation of the sales data
relative to the forecasted sales exceeds a threshold;

g) computer code for the independent supply chain management system
generating and then sending out directly or indirectly via at least one of the

independent stores to a distributor an electronic order form to be fulfilled to at least the one of the independent stores based on the sales data relating to multiple completed sales of goods by a-the at least one independent store of the supply chain, the electronic order form requesting a confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form to be sent upon receipt of and prior to fulfillment of the order;

h) computer code for determining whether the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form is received by the independent supply chain management system from the distributor;

i) computer code for the independent supply chain management system generating ~~an~~ a second alert upon determining that the independent supply chain management system did not receive the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form from the distributor;

j) computer code for the independent supply chain management system determining a mark up added to the products delivered to one of the independent stores;

k) computer code for the independent supply chain management system comparing the mark up added to the mark up negotiated by the supply chain manager; and

l) computer code for generating a third alert if a discrepancy is found.

1 14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the
2 confirmation is received utilizing the network.

1 15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the network
2 includes the Internet.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein
2 the alerts are ~~is~~ transmitted to the stores utilizing the network.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein
2 one of the alerts is displayed on the network-based interface.

- 1 18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein
- 2 one of the alerts includes an electronic mail message.